

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-8 and 12-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 2 and 9-11 have been canceled, claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 have been amended and claims 13-18 have been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 9-11 were withdrawn from consideration; Claims 1, 4 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Howarth, Jr.; Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Howarth, Jr.; Claim 5 was rejected over 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Howarth, Jr. in view of Olson; Claims 6-9 were allowed; and Claim 2 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter recited in dependent claim 2. Further, independent claim 12 has also been amended to include subject matter similar that recited in dependent claim 2. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted the pending claims are allowable and the rejections noted in the Office Action are moot.

In addition, new claims 13-18 have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope, and Applicant submits the new claims are supported by the originally filed specification. In particular, new claim 13 includes features similar to that recited in independent claim 6 and also clarifies that the heating nipper includes cutting regions to simultaneous cut the light-

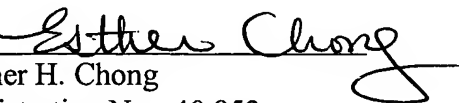
guiding plate to a desired size while the plurality of cutting tools form the plurality of grooves in the light-guiding plate. These features are illustrated in Fig. 5, for example. That is, as shown the heating nipper 1000 includes cutting regions to simultaneously cut the light-guiding plate 100 to a desired size while the plurality of cutting tools 200 form the plurality of grooves in a light-guiding plate 100 (see also paragraph [0049], for example). It is respectfully noted the cited art does not teach or suggest the features recited in new independent claim 13. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claim 13 and the claims depending therefrom are also allowable.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone David A. Bilodeau (Reg. No. 42,325) at 703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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